

SPORTS

FRIENDSHIP-84

Weightlifters compete in Bulgaria

On September 12-16, Bulgaria will be the venue for weightlifters' contests. They will be the last tournaments under the slogan of Friendship-84 games held in nine socialist countries and organized as international contests in many athletic events and in several popular events which have not yet been included into the programme of the Olympic Games, such as sambo wrestling, table tennis, and lawn tennis.

The sports fans are expecting much from the forthcoming match between weightlifters. Frankly speaking, the contest between weightlifters in Los Angeles was a disappointment. There was not a single champion, let alone world champion. As a result came middling performance which is considerably lower than the level achieved over the past few years. No world record was set up.

At the latest world championship held in 1983 in Moscow, the first few places in the ten weight categories were distributed in the following manner — the Soviet Union won six first places, Bulgaria—three and the GDR—one. Counting first in the 1980 Olympics were athletes who for well-known reasons were absent from Los Angeles.

Thus, the contests in Bulgaria will serve as a central event in the weightlifting this year.

The Soviet team has 15 athletes—all of this country's best weightlifters who include the Olympic, European and world champions and record-holders.

Sambo competition

Sambo wrestling competitions have been held in Ulan-Bator, capital of the Mongolian People's Republic. This type of wrestling is very popular among athletes in the socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, and Mongolia. It was announced at the start of the competition that it had been proposed to set up an International Sambo Federation by end of the year.

The Soviet national team was represented at the contests by ten wrestlers, seven of whom are world champions, two European champions, and a prize-winner of a world championship. Among other things, the authority of the Soviet team is explained by the fact that this temperamental type of wrestling originated in this country.

Out of the ten weight categories, the Soviet athletes won in seven:

- up to 48 kg — Nuristan Khalilov,
- up to 57 kg — Viktor Ashtakov,
- up to 62 kg — Alexander Akseyonov,
- up to 68 kg — Vladimir Pashin,
- up to 82 kg — Garam Chertkoyev,
- up to 100 kg — Anton Novik,
- over 100 kg — Vladimir Solodovnikov.

Wrestlers from the Mongolian People's Republic won in the other weight categories.



A tense moment in the USSR Rugby Championship match between Lokomotiv and Tbilisi of Moscow. Lokomotiv won 15-6. They are now among the three leading teams with 46 points. The Yuri Gagarin Air Force Academy team are leading with 53 points.

WELL DONE, BUBKA!

Sergei Bubka has established yet another world record in Rome having pole-vaulted to 5.94 m! The Soviet vaulter beat here the Frenchman Thierry Vigneron who marked 5.91 m five minutes before Bubka.

The competitions in Rome were named "Slav Parade" featuring athletes from various countries including many Olympians.

Here are some results of the Soviet athletes. The shot-put was won by Jais Bojais who beat the Olympic champion Alessandro Andrei with his 21 m. Yuri Sedykh was unsurpassed in hammer throwing — 83.90. Tatyana Pozdnyakova led the 3 km run outdoing the Olympic prize-holder Mariela Pulka, Romania. The 400 m hurdles for women was won by Margarita Ponomareva with 55.75. Second places were won by Lyudmila Kondratyeva with 11.09 in the 100 m run (after Ashford with 10.9) and Tamara Bykova with 190 cm in high jump (after Lyudmila Andonova of Bulgaria with 202 cm). Viktor Markin was the second in the 400 m run with 45.69 while Vera Akimova came second in the 100 m hurdles — 12.40.

Soviet athletes performed also in discus throwing (men), in high jump (men), in the 200 m (men) and in the 800 m (women).



Sergei Bubka vaulting.

OUR WRESTLERS WIN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Seven gold medals have been won by Soviet athletes under 19 who competed in the European Junior Free-Style Wrestling Championship just ended in Warsaw. The winners are Anatoly Sivkov of Kemerovo (up to 52 kg weight category), Artyur Mitalinov (up to 65 kg) and Abusamed Gamidov (up to 81 kg), both of Makhachkala, Magomed-Kamil Magomedov (up to 70 kg) and Abakar Abakarov (up to 75 kg), both of Khassavyurt, Tamas Undanashvili of Gori (up to 87 kg) and Nikolai Lashukin of Minsk (over 87 kg).

The success of Soviet motor racers

The Soviet motor racers have won the contest between national teams on the cross-country track of the "One Thousand Lakes" auto rally in Finland. They have overtaken the teams from the GDR, Sweden, Finland and West Germany. Only 74 crews arrived at the finishing line after three days of the race which was started by 144 crews in the town of Juvaskyla. The cars which have arrived at the finish include both the Moskvich-214 de Luxe cars (in the group of conventional cars) and two VAZ 2105 Rally vehicles (in the group of special cars). The second and the third places in their class of baby cars have been won by the crews of the last drivers from the AZL Motor Works Vladimir Soloviyev, Mikhail Titov, and Valery Mononov-Mikhail Davel along the Moskvich cars. Brothers Nikolai and Igor Bolshikh from ZIL Lorry Factory have been third driving a VAZ car.

FIFTH WIN

Having beaten Italy 75-71 in the final match in Jönköping, Sweden, the USSR basketball junior team became the strongest in Europe for the fifth year. They are followed by Italy and Yugoslavia.

OUTER SPACE MUST BE PEACEFUL

Outer space should be an area of peaceful cooperation and not military rivalry for the sake of their respective nations, said Konstantin Kozlov at a ceremony in the USSR during which high Soviet awards were conferred on cosmonauts Vladimir Dzhanibekov and Svetlana Savitskaya for their successful flight aboard the Salyut-7.

The Soviet State and the Soviet people are convinced that it is necessary to ensure peace in outer space. The Soviet Union is ready to negotiate proposals to ensure the peaceful use of outer space. It is necessary to ensure that outer space is not used for military purposes or for other purposes which would be detrimental to the peace and security of the world. The Soviet Union is ready to respond to the Soviet Union's constructive approach to the peaceful use of outer space. Clear scientific discoveries to serve the peace have not interfered with the peace and security of the world. This must not come to pass in outer space.



The awarding ceremony in the Kremlin.

In the meantime the Salyut-7 station continues its flight. On board it are the cosmonauts Leonid Kizim, Vladimir Soloviyev and Oleg Alkov who have worked there for seven months now. They have improved on the previous space flight record of 211 days which belonged to Anatoly Bereznev and Valentin Lebedev.

During these seven months the Salyut-7 crew have carried out a large amount of work researching Earth's natural resources, performing medical, technological and astro-physical experiments and have received two visiting missions. Their record includes six walks in space, which resulted in exclusively important operations with the station's combined engine, as well as the assembly of additional solar battery panels. The cosmonauts have just completed the "Black Sea" experiment provided for by the intercosmos programme.

Soviet experts believe that 211 days are by no means the limit for the reserves of the human organism.

WINNERS OF THE AVICENNA AWARD

The International Jury, which is comprised of prominent public figures, writers, scholars, scientists and journalists from Asian and African countries and the Soviet Union have decided to award the 1984 Avicenna award to Lucrécia R. Kasiliang, the well known Philippine composer and public figure and to the Soviet magazine, "Africa and Asia Today". The International prize awarded by the USSR Novosti Press Agency established in honour of the great Oriental scholar and scientist is awarded annually for the best works promoting the ideals of peace and friendship among the nations of Asia, Africa and the Soviet Union.

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A briefing at USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs

A briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists on the Conference on Confidence and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe which resumed in Stockholm on September 11 was held at the press centre of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The press was addressed by V. Lomelko, a representative of the press department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, who described the situation at the Stockholm Conference. Touching on the proposals of the USSR and the socialist countries, he noted that an undertaking by all the nuclear powers not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and the conclusion of a treaty on non-use of military force would be a significant step towards restoring confidence among states.

The Soviet representative criticized the proposals of the NATO countries put forward in Stockholm and noted that they highlighted narrow military-technical measures aimed at "X-raying" the military activity of the USSR and the Warsaw Treaty member-countries. This position while aimed at unilateral military advantages for the NATO bloc, creates obstacles

(Continued on page 2)

CHESS 'CROWN', THE PRICE OF A MOVE

The 31st men's world chess championship opens on September 9 in Moscow between the defending three-time world chess champion Anatoly Karpov and his contender Garry Kasparov. On September 10, the world chess championship among women starts in Volgograd where the twice world champion Maya Chiburdanidze defends her title against Irina Levitina. Both matches are between Soviet chess players.

Karpov-Kasparov

The first game for the men's title begins on September 10 in Moscow's Hall of Columns in the House of Trade Unions. The building accommodated a Moscow Chess Club set up at the

(Continued on page 8)

DIPLOMATS VISIT A STATE FARM

A group of diplomatic missions in the Soviet Union visited Voronezh, a city in the vicinity of Moscow. This is a major agricultural enterprise which specializes in the production of meat and milk.

Bolivia's Charge d'Affaires Raul Zelada highly appreciated the industriousness of the Soviet people adding that in his opinion the experience in the development of cattle-breeding complexes in the USSR could be useful to Bolivia. In this sense, he considered the visit to the state farm very important.

The visit was worth taking the ambassadors away from their work, tearing them away from their studies, said Iceland's Ambassador Haraldur Kröyer. He also said it had brought them back to real life, adding that the visit to the state farm was a good reminder that one of their main tasks — and of their governments — was to ensure that their entire populations were adequately fed.



Foreign diplomats visiting the Voronezh state farm.

Photo by Boris Kaufman

Another nine centimetres up

Sergei Kasanaukas has set up a new USSR record in shot-putting. This athlete from the city of Minsk pushed it to the distance of 22 m 09 cm. This new achievement is nine centimetres better than the record set up by Alexander Baryshalov on July 11, 1976.

Sergei is 23 years old. At the recent Friendship-84 competi-

tions he won the gold medal with a result of 21 m 04 cm, coming on top of the world record-holder, Udo Beyer of the GDR, and another world record-holder, Edward Samul of Poland. In the results of the 1983 season, Kasanaukas held the 11th place in the list of the world's best shot-putters. Beyer's world record is 22 m 22 cm.

First sensation in Canada Cup

The Soviet team has entered the Canada Cup competitions with a 3-0 victory over Czechoslovakia. The day before, the Canadian team thra-

shed their guests West Germany, 7-2. Another sensation was the 1984 Sweden match which ended 7-1 in favour of Americans.

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Round the Soviet Union

● THE NARROW STREETS OF THE ANCIENT FORTRESS IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN, WHERE A FOLK CRAFT FESTIVAL USED TO BE HELD, HAVE BEEN TURNED INTO SHOPS FOR CHAIRS, CARPENTERS, POTTERS AND SHOEMAKERS. The craftsmen who hauled from all over the republic demonstrated their skill producing articles which are in great demand. Soviet Azerbaijan does a lot in order to revitalize the folk crafts. Over 100 small production shops have now been set up for the craftsmen.

● HAVING COMPLETED THE GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL STUDY OF THE CENTRAL GROUP OF THE KURIL ISLANDS, THE RESEARCH VESSELS "MORSKOI GEOFIZIK" AND "PEGAS" HAVE COME BACK FROM THEIR EXPEDITION. Scientists from the Sakhalin Research Institute of Sea Geology and Geophysics have been studying the structure of the Earth crust under the Sea of Okhotsk and the waters of the Pacific Ocean. Their work has resulted in the compilation of a geological-geophysical atlas soon to be published in Leningrad.

● AN HONORARY DOCTOR DEGREE OF MOSCOW UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN CONFERRED ON ERWIN SCHARF, MEMBER OF THE POLITBUREAU OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRIA AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE "WEG UND ZEIT" MAGAZINE. At the ceremony, Moscow University Rector Academician Anatoly Logunov noted that the Soviet people are familiar with the name of Erwin Scharf, an active supporter of peace among peoples.

● THE INTERSCHOOL ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY IN THE TOWN OF STARKANOV, VOROSHILOVGRAD REGION, HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH MODERN EQUIPMENT. The pupils have at their disposal powerful telescopes, computers and display facilities. The equipment was presented by the Pulkovo Astronomical Institute. The children's clubs, Astronom and Elektron, have been opened at the observatory.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

WHERE DOES PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS' MONEY GO?

In this country there are over one thousand trade union and other public organizations with a financial base of a 10,000-million roubles. The POLITCHESKOYE SAMOOBRAZOVANIYE magazine, analyzing how these organizations disburse their funds, writes that they mainly go to satisfy the social and cultural needs of the working people.

The material basis of many public organizations serves the purpose of protecting the health of all the citizens of this country in one way or another. In 1982 alone more than 9.7 million people spent their vacations and had treatment in trade union sanatoriums, family rest homes and resorts. 279 million roubles were used for building, equipping and repairing these facilities. The trade unions appropriated roughly 2,500 million roubles on cultural and everyday facilities.

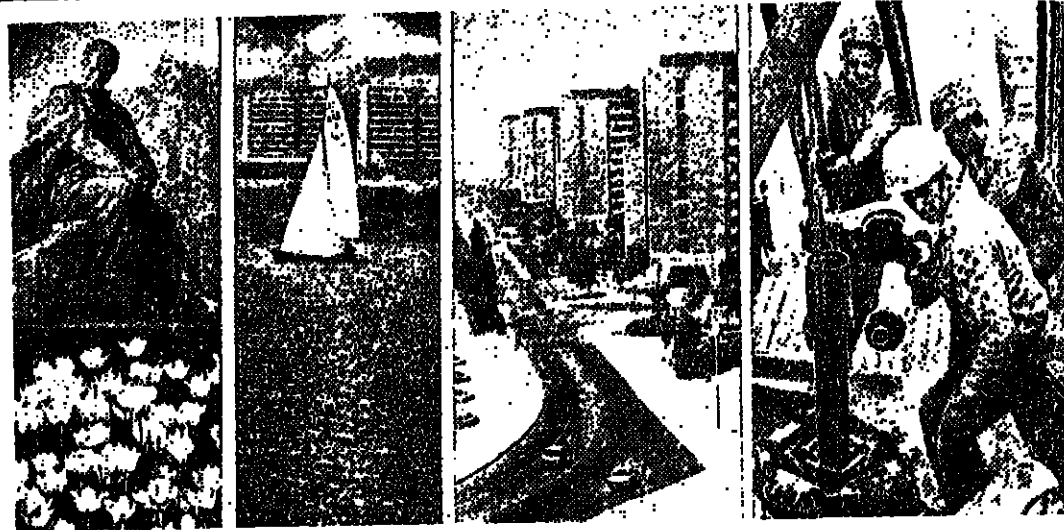
The material wealth of the sporting clubs constantly grows. For example, between 1975 and 1982 the number of stadiums of the Trade Union Society grew from 720 to 1,203, gyms — from 2.3 thousand to 4.6 thousand, swimming pools from 136 to 567, etc. Dynamo, Spartak, Burevestnik and many other sports societies have considerable material funds. They own thousands of sporting schools and health-building camps.

YAMBURG — LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

In recent years all the increment in Siberian gas production will be obtained through the Yamburg deposit situated north of Urengoi.

What is Yamburg which is so much talked about? Here is what IZVESTIA had to report.

An area beyond the Polar Circle, Desolate tundra, permafrost. And underlying all this is a gas condenser



A monument to the Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko. ● A view of the town from the sea. ● New neighbourhoods. ● Mangyshlak oilmen.

Sea supplies drinking water for town

Shevchenko is one of the youngest towns in the Soviet Union. It sprang up on the Caspian coast of the Mangyshlak Peninsula. It was given life by the peaceful atom which was used to operate an installation for desalinating sea water.

The atomic power station built near the town provides electricity for both the town and the peninsula's oil and gas fields. Some of its heat is used for the desalination installations. The capacity of which enables each citizen to receive

500 litres of water every day. Not every capital in the world can boast of such riches. Yet Shevchenko is built in an area where no fresh water existed at all. As they say in the Orient, "Life is where water is". In a town built to a desert people managed to lay out parks and public gardens, to plant greenery in many streets, and this is possible due to sufficient water supply. The population of Shevchenko has already passed the 100,000 mark.

Polar shipping: stake on nuclear icebreakers

Work started at the Baltiyskiy shipyards in Leningrad on the main structures of the nuclear icebreaker "Rossiya", the fourth such Soviet ship intended for the Polar sea. Displacement 25,000 tonnes, 75,000 hp.

The first nuclear icebreaker, the "Lenin", built 25 years ago also in Leningrad, ushered in a new era for Polar navigation.

Its displacement (15.3 thousand tonnes) and power (44 thousand hp) were record setting for the time.

Ten years ago the nuclear icebreaker "Arktika", now the "Leonid Brezhnev", made its

maiden voyage, and reached the North Pole in 1977. In 1978 the "Sibir" joined the fleet of nuclear icebreakers. The latter two ships have a displacement of over 23 thousand tonnes and 75,000 hp engines. Nuclear icebreakers have extended Polar navigation to 12 months a year on its western section stretching from Murmansk to the Taimyr Peninsula, and to three months a year on its eastern section from Taimyr down to Chukotka. Last year when the extremely severe conditions resulted in that dozens of ships were trapped in the ice of the Chukchee Sea, they were

saved only thanks to nuclear icebreakers which helped to avoid casualties and major losses of ships and cargo.

Airmen helping farmers

Agricultural aviation has eliminated quite efficiently a source of cotton plant pests in the south of the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan. Over 100 thousand hectares were sprayed to save the crop.

Aviation has been used in Uzbekistan since 1931 when one plane sprayed only 300 hectares. The republic has now over 200 agricultural aircraft and 530 fully equipped runways.

Airmen help the farmers to introduce mineral fertilizers, to spray the fields, gardens and

SIBERIAN COAL PUMPED

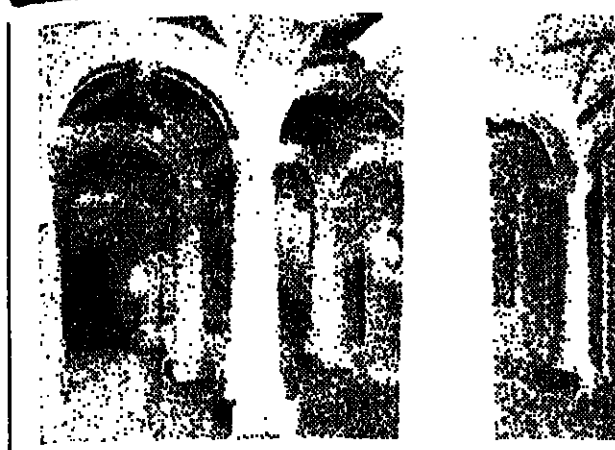
The first kilometre of pipeline have been laid to meet the mine linkages in Kirovskiy field and Norilsk Western Siberia. The 200 km line will be completed by 1985 to pump water-and-coal from the pit to the furnace of a thermal power plant.

Pumping a coal slurry is a new technology. They use it in the USA, West Germany and Italy. The Kirovskiy field has several of them, one tunneling from the coal-oven batteries to the power plant.

But the new coal pipeline under construction from the first of them is a major project. Unlike flood slurry having 75% of water per unit of coal, requiring that the water be pumped before the coal is pumped, the new slurry will be 60-70 per cent of coal and can be pumped without preliminary processing.

The coal pipeline will be in operation in 1985, putting a lasting ground to experiments. The Kirovskiy field producing over 15 million tonnes annually of coal is one of the most important of transporting coal to numerous consumers. The pipeline to Novosibirsk is to build other pipelines for 2,400 km to power plants in Siberia and the Urals.

Places to visit



The palace on the Neva

The Menshikov Palace, one of the newest museums in Leningrad, has expanded its grounds. Another stage of restoration has been completed adding four rooms to the existing eleven.

Construction of the palace on the Vasilyevsky Island began in 1710. The impressive ensemble of the former Russian capital was the official residence of the first governor-general of Petersburg.

The Big Hall has been restored to all its magnificence — stucco moulding, gilding, elaborate wall lamps, canvases by Dutch painters, decorative marble vases. On the ground floor a reception room at the time when the palace was a one-story structure. But the relatively small hunting room must be the most intriguing part of the palace. Peter the Great's command and favourite must have arranged it to please the tsar. The table catches one's attention with the words "Saint-Peterburg, 1713" engraved on it. The exhibition includes a shelf with tools used by Peter, his favourite armchair, old-time furniture, engravings and books.

The Salons' Room has also been restored. It was used to quarter a crew of seamen staying on duty around the clock during the summer: no bridges were yet built across the Neva. An old-time ship compass and a navigation manual can be seen on the table.

BLACK SEA TO BECOME CLEANER

Oysters reappeared off the shores of the Gdudat resort on the Black Sea crowning the effort by local ichthyologists to regenerate the famous Gdudat oyster bank. The new plantations will yield up to 300 thousand oysters a year. This is mainly the result of the fact that local fish discharge created to pollute the sea, underground mechanical, chemical and biological purification.

The sea adjacent to another resort, Novy Afon, will also be cleaner, as work on pumping and purification facilities is being completed.

ARCHITECTURE FOR ANCIENT KIEV

The drawing of the general reconstruction plan for Kiev has entered its final stage. The plan covers the big residential areas of Troshchinsky and Kharkovskoye Shosse where thousands of families will be housed. First 12- and 14-storey buildings will spring up in the novel area of Teremki-1. Quite a number of construction cranes can also be seen in central Kiev, which means that architectural ensembles will soon decorate Gorky, Bozhenko and Koslov streets. The historical district of Podol will become more beautiful, and so will the areas adjoining the Lev Tolstoy, Lvovskaya and Moskovskaya squares.

Over 20 thousand builders and designers renovating this ancient city will do everything to make Kiev even more beautiful.

OF INTEREST

A 1,000-year-old plane-tree

There is a 1,000-year-old plane-tree towering over district centre Dzhirgatal, according to botanists at the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences.

The 50-metre-high giant with its thick crown protects houses against wind in winter and provides people with shade and coolness in summer. Despite its age the tree yields rich fruit and develops normally.

Botanists are of the opinion that the secret of long life lies in the special mountainous microclimate. The old tree grows on a river bank, its roots washed by water. People remove dry branches from it with the help of ropes and ladders. The giant is protected by the state as a rare natural monument.

In Azerbaijan there exists a special attitude towards the plane-tree. Its deep roots make it indispensable in lightning protection. About one thousand are planted with plane-trees annually.



In spite of bad weather and rain, the 18th all-Union motor rally of home-made cars has started in Moscow to mark the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War. Nearly 30 models have been selected from a large number

Science and technology

VACCINES PREPARED IN OUTER SPACE

A "cosmic concentrate", a high purity aluminium compound from surface envelopes of the virus, has been turned over to the Pasteur Epidemiology and Microbiology Institute in Leningrad. The compound used in the production of anti-vaccines has been made on board the Soviet orbital station Salyut-7 by the visiting crew under the command of Vladimir Dzhanibekov.

Thus new modifications of Soviet preparations with a high degree of preventing and therapeutic effect have been created, said Tomaz Poratov, Director of the Pasteur Institute. The surface albumen of the virus serves as some kind of a standard to control the quality of the vaccines, the effectiveness and absence of side effects. It has been established that biological preparations of such a degree of purity, which is impossible to ensure in the conditions of gravitation, can be obtained in weightlessness.

NEW SCIENTIFIC CENTRE

A new research institution, the Mining Institute, has been set up in the Soviet Far East, having one of the biggest reserves of mineral resources in the country, including coal, oil and copper.

We are expected to take part in solving various problems of comprehensive mineral utilization, forecasting, using the mining industry and conducting mining theory and practice in the region. Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences Ye. Bogdanov, Director of the institute, says. We are also made responsible for promoting new machines and equipment for the mining industry, thereby surrounding its development in the Far Eastern economic region.

A BUG KILLING

VINE SCALE

Apheron, a peninsula in Azerbaijan known for its vineyards, is now protected from vine scale by thousands of pest killers set free by people working for the local Institute of Zoology.

Vine scale inflicting heavy losses on agriculture can be easily controlled in the conditions of dry subtropical characteristic of Apheron by a bug called naphus. The bug was sent to Baku, Azerbaijan capital, from Moscow with the aim to acclimatize it in Apheron.

TUNDRA IN THE BALTIC

The Vormsi Island in the Baltic Sea has a rather unusual flora for Estonia. The scientists of this Baltic republic suggested that it be turned into a reserve, with a real tundra stretching on several dozen hectares.

As to its climate Vormsi differs very little from 1,500 km and small islands of Estonia. But its flora is typical for the North, lichen, dwarfish trees, creeping bushes. According to botanists this natural phenomenon has been existing only for a few decades. Judging by everything the seeds and spores of tundra vegetation were brought there by migratory birds which took a fancy in this sparsely populated but of land for resting during annual migration to the south.

HORIZONS

OF THERMAL

POWER GENERATION

The achievements and prospects of thermal power generation and related lines in science and technology were discussed by the fifth conference of the International Association for the Properties of Steam held in Moscow. The conference was attended by scientists and engineers from 20 countries, including Great Britain, Canada, the USSR, the USA, France, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Japan.

Modern industrial production makes wide use of water and water steam as the best transfer agent in various installations. Professor A. Aleksandrov, Secretary of the conference's organizing committee, said.

The role of steam in power generation is not only great. For example, in the Soviet Union about 100 per cent of electric power is produced by thermal plants, either conventional or atomic thermal plants.

Obviously we will only be able to design and operate steam power units properly if we have exact information on the thermodynamic properties of steam in a wide range of pressures and temperatures.

Research in this line was insignificant many years ago but it is now vital to the thermal, atomic and geothermal power generation, by geophysics, crystallography and chemical technology.

Soviet specialists have measured steam properties at supercritical temperatures within the range of 300°C and 2000 atmospheres. These and other achievements have extended our knowledge of the properties of steam, ordinary and heavy water, and formed the foundation of international thermophysical tables, which have earned Soviet science well-deserved recognition.

VIEWPOINT

Prices brought down

State retail prices on a number of consumer goods were reduced as of September 1, 1984, in the USSR.

This decision to reduce prices, taken by the CPSU Central Committee and Council of Ministers of the USSR is commented on by Nikolai GLUSHKOV, Chairman of the State Committee on Prices of the USSR.

Prices have been reduced on goods that are in everyday demand and are bought on a large scale. This reduction involves many types of clothing — sewn goods, knitwear, hosiery and babydressing, as well as a number of household goods and electrical appliances, phonographs, tinware, models and several others.

The production of these goods has considerably increased, the demand in them is basically met, a fact which has created certain possibilities for bringing down the retail prices quite considerably — by 20 and 30 per cent.

The distinctive feature of the current reduction is that the prices of several goods for children have come down by 30 per cent as a rule. It must be noted that no such sweeping reduction of prices for children's goods had ever before been effected.

The policy of the Soviet State with regard to children's wear is one of preferential low prices. In a number of cases they are even below cost.

The present reduction of prices also affects certain types of medicines. They are the ones for curing cardiovascular, asthmatic and several other diseases.

It should be taken into account that the Soviet pharmacies sell less than a half of the produced drugs, with the rest given free to patients in the medical establishments. Also free are the drugs for a number of diseases, such as diabetes, urological diseases and others.

The total gain of the population will add up to an impressive sum of over nine thousand million roubles — as a result of price reductions carried out during the past eighteen months, seasonal price reductions (up to 40 per cent), as well as the cancellation of various price increases on a number of new products.

These and other measures aimed at considerably raising the living standards of the Soviet people offer the opportunity for every family, every consumer to buy more goods and foodstuffs.

Here are some figures. The retail goods turnover in the state and cooperative trade increased almost threefold between 1965 and 1983. Over the same period there was a marked increase in the sales of household goods, electric appliances, and of the most important foodstuffs.

Besides, the retail prices for many goods, and foodstuffs in the first place, do not cover the cost of their production. Their prices are kept down through state subsidies. In 1983, for example, over 40,000 million roubles were allocated from the state budget to pay for the difference between the actual prices and the cost of production, purchase, processing and sales of the meat and dairy products. The state subsidizes housing maintenance and utilities to the tune of six and a half thousand million roubles.

presented for the rally. The route lies along the western border of the Soviet Union. ● Before the start. ● Cosmonaut Vyacheslav Zudov, one of the contestants. Photo by Andrei Gerasimov

